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LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pakistan has been closely monitoring the events since the unfortunate bombing incidents in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

We condemned these attacks and expressed our sympathy with the families of the victims. As you are well aware, Pakistan itself has been a victim of terrorism, including State-sponsored terrorism.

Not only did we condemn the attacks in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, but we also offered our cooperation in the international efforts to apprehend the perpetrators of the crime. Consequently, when we detained a certain Mohammad Sadeq Oweda, who, according to our interrogation, appeared to be involved in the incidents in Nairobi, we handed him over to the Kenyan authorities in Nairobi.

We had expected that the results of the inquiry on the bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam would be shared with us. However, the United States of America, despite being well aware of our strong position against terrorism, decided to take unilateral action against alleged terrorist sites in Afghanistan and the Sudan.

This action by the United States entailed a violation of the airspace of Pakistan. On 21 August 1998 we lodged a protest with the United States on the presumption that the missiles had overflown the territory of Pakistan. This was later proved to be correct, as one of the missiles landed at Shatinger in the province of Balochistan, 280 kilometres inland from our coastline in Pasni.

Our protest is brought to the notice of the Security Council in regard to the violation of our airspace. Such action, if condoned, sets a precedent which can encourage other countries to pursue aggressive designs against their neighbours on flimsy or unsubstantiated pretexts.

An element that cannot be ignored is that unilateral actions such as this only encourage misguided elements to persevere in acts of extremism, and do not serve the overriding objective of rooting out terrorism. We would have hoped

that there would have been prior consultations before this action was undertaken.

The elimination of terrorism is of common concern to all. Whereas Pakistan cannot speak for the Government of Afghanistan, it has nevertheless noted that the leadership in Kabul and Kandahar have again reiterated categorically that they would not allow their territory to be used for acts of terrorism against third countries.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and Permanent Representativ